REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-33, 35-41, 43-48, 50-58, 60-67, 69-74, 76-97 remain in the application for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

§ 101 Rejections

Claims 91-97 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because, in the Office's view, the claimed subject matter is related to non-statutory subject matter. While Applicant disagrees, claims 91 and 97 have been amended in response to the Office's rejections. In light of the current amendments, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-33, 35-41, 43-48, 50-58, 60-67, 69-74, and 76-97 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,125,446 to Olarig et al. (hereafter "Olarig") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,722 to Lampert et al. (hereinafter "Lampert").

A discussion of the Applicant's disclosure as well as the Lampert reference has been provided below for the convenience of the Office.

Applicant's Disclosure

Various embodiments described in Applicant's disclosure pertain to *hierarchical tree structures* that uniquely identify geographical divisions of the Earth and/or physical or logical entities. In at least some embodiments, each tree has multiple nodes and at least one node from each tree is linked. ***Goods and***

services can be associated with individual nodes on the tree, the nodes providing a universal reference when attempting to locate or consume the goods or services.

In at least some embodiments, a Master World is a hierarchical tree structure of nodes that represents a universally acceptable description of the world. Each node represents some aspect of the world and is connected to at least one other node by a branch. An exemplary classification of nodes takes place on a physical level (e.g. physical locations such as political entities, infrastructure entities and public places), as well as a non-physical level (e.g. military APOs).

Once an individual's location or a place an individual is interested in is determined, various services that reference the location can be offered to the individual based on their location. *That is, value is provided by the Master World model in the ability to tie services to nodal locations in the Master World.*

In at least some embodiments, a *Secondary World is also a hierarchical tree structure of nodes*. A Secondary World is a powerful computing mechanism whereby individual entities (such as businesses or organizations) can define their own particular worlds that need not necessarily conform to the Master World view of the world. That is, while the Master World is essentially a physical hierarchical representation of the world, the Secondary Worlds can be physical and/or logical representations of each individual entities' world view. *One particularly useful aspect of the Secondary World is that it links, at least one point, into the Master World.* Thus, within any Secondary World, in at least some embodiments, a user's location not only within the Secondary World, but the Master World as well can be determined. *Various services can be attached to the nodes of the Secondary World.* Based upon a user's calculated position, these various services that are

associated with Secondary World nodes can be offered to the user. In addition, because the user's context is determined relative to the Master World, other services that may not be associated with a particular Secondary World can be offered.

The Lampert Reference

Lampert teaches a system and method for making and using a geographic database. The geographic database represents a geographic region and is used with a navigation application program. The geographic database includes a *plurality of data entities each of which represents a physical feature in the geographic region*. The plurality of data entities are separated into a plurality of parcels each of which contains a grouping of data entities that represent features in the geographic area encompassed within a separate one of a plurality of rectangles which together encompass all the features in the entire geographic region represented by all of the plurality of data entities. Each of the plurality of data entities has a data entity ID. The data entities contained in each of the plurality of parcels define an associated range of data entity ID's associated with their respective parcel such that the range of data entity ID's associated with each parcel does not overlap the range of data entity ID's associated with any another of the plurality of parcels.

Lampert teaches the use of *one searchable kd-tree structure* associated with the geographic database, whose nodes represent divisions of the geographic region into the rectangles from which the parcels are formed. The kd-tree structure permits spatial searching for a parcel based upon geographic coordinates.

Lampert does not teach that entity ID's can serve as a basis by which

attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node. For instance, in one type of geographic database, there is at least one database entry (also referred to as "entity" or "record") for each road segment in a geographic region. This road segment data record may have associated with it *information that allows identification of the nodes associated with the road segment and/or the geographic positions* (e.g. the latitude and longitude coordinates) of the two nodes. *In addition, the database road segment record may have associated with it information that specify the speed of travel on the portion of the roadway represented by the road segment record, the direction of travel permitted on the road portion represented by the road segment record, the name of the road represented by the road segment record, what if any turn restrictions exist at each of the nodes which correspond to intersections at the ends of the road portion represented by the road segment record, street address ranges of the roadway represented by the road segment record, and so on.*

The Claims

Claim 1 recites a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:
    - receive context information from externally of the device, the context information pertaining to one or more current device contexts;
    - automatically determine one or more current contexts from the context information using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures, wherein the tree structures comprise individual nodes individual ones of

which being associated with a context, wherein said one or more current contexts are determined by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, ***EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node***;

o locally evaluate a collection of policies in connection with the one or more current contexts to provide a resultant set of policies; and

o enforce the resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office asserts that its subject matter would have been obvious in view of the teachings of Olarig and Lampert. The Office argues that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to consider the use of tree structures and entity IDs in the invention of Olarig as they provided *efficient and quick* operation of navigation systems. The Office argues that an ordinary artisan also would have been motivated to consider incorporating such features as Lampert disclosed them to be *advantageous in systems with limited memory resources.*" (See Office Action page 6) (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, the Office has failed to assert that either Olarig or Lambert disclose EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to *goods or services* associated with an individual node.

It is understandable that the Office has failed to assert that Olarig or Lampert disclose this subject matter because neither reference teaches or in any way mentions EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to *goods or services* associated with an individual node. As discussed above, Lampert

discloses a geographic database that may have information associated with each node, such as speed of travel, the direction of travel permitted, or the name of the road represented by the road segment record. None of this *information* can be considered goods or services as claimed. To the extent that the Office admits that Olarig does not disclose the use of trees, Olarig adds nothing of significance.

In view of the above discussion, the Office's rejection is incomplete and does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 2 and 4-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 13 recites a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:
  - o receive context information from externally of the device, the context information pertaining to a current device context and determine a current context using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, wherein the tree structures comprise individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, wherein said current context is determined by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, and wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and

o enforce a set of policies on the one or more applications, the set of policies pertaining to a current context that is associated with the context information.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 13, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 16 recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- receiving context information from externally of a computing device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
- automatically determining, with the computing device, a current context using the context information,
- wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:
  - o providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and
  - o traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures to provide the current context;
- evaluating a collection of policies in connection with the current context to provide a resultant set of policies; and

- enforcing the resultant set of policies on one or more applications that are executable by the computing device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 17-20 and 22-27 depend from claim 16 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 16, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 28 recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- receiving context information from externally of a computing device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
- automatically determining, with the computing device, a current context using the context information;
- wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:
  - o providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and
  - o traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures to provide the current context; and
- enforcing a set of policies, which are the result of a collection of policies in connection with the current device context, on one or more applications that are executable by the computing device, the

resultant set of policies pertaining to a context that is associated with the context information that is received.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 29-31 depend from claim 28 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 28, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 32 recites a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:
  - receive context information from externally of the device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
  - automatically determine a current context from the context information using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, the device being configured to determine its current context by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*;
  - locally evaluate a collection of policies in connection with the current context to provide a resultant set of policies;

o enforce the resultant set of policies on the one or more applications;
o responsive to receiving context information that indicates a change of current context:
  ▪ locally re-evaluate the collection of policies to provide a new resultant set of policies; and
  ▪ enforce the new resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 33 and 35-39 depend from claim 32 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 32 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 40 recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- wirelessly receiving context information from externally of a computing device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
- automatically determining, with the computing device, a current context using the context information;
- wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:
  o providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and

- o traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures to provide the current context;
- locally evaluating, with the computing device, a collection of policies in connection with the current context to provide a resultant set of policies;
- enforcing the resultant set of policies on one or more applications that are executable by the computing device;
- determining whether the device's current context has changed and if so, automatically determining a new current context using received context information;
- responsive to determining the new current context, locally re-evaluating, with the computing device, the collection of policies to provide a new resultant set of policies for the new current context; and
- enforcing the new resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 41 and 43-45 depend from claim 40 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 40 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 46 recites a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:
  - o receive location information pertaining to a current device

location;

- o automatically determine a current location from the location information using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, the device being configured to determine its current location by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*;
- o locally evaluate a collection of policies in connection with the current location to provide a resultant set of policies; and
- o enforce the resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 47, 48 and 50-54 depend from claim 46 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 46 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 55 recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- receiving location information pertaining to a current device location;

- automatically determining, with the computing device, a current location using the location information;
- wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:
  - o providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and
  - o traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures to provide the current location;
- locally evaluating, with the computing device, a collection of policies in connection with the current location to provide a resultant set of policies; and
- enforcing the resultant set of policies on one or more applications that are executable by the computing device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 56-58 and 60-64 depend from claim 55 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 55 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 65 recites a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:

- o receive location information pertaining to a current device location;
- o automatically determine a current location from the location information using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, the device being configured to determine its current location by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*;
- o locally evaluate a collection of policies in connection with the current location to provide a resultant set of policies;
- o enforce the resultant set of policies on the one or more applications; and
- o responsive to receiving location information that indicates a change of current location:
  - locally re-evaluate the collection of policies to provide a new resultant set of policies; and
  - enforce the new resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 66, 67 and 69-72 depend from claim 65 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 65 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 73 recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [emphasis added]:

- wirelessly receiving location information from externally of a computing device, the location information pertaining to a current device location;
- automatically determining, with the computing device, a current location using the location information;
- wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:
  - o providing one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*; and
  - o traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures to provide the current location;
- locally evaluating, with the computing device, a collection of policies in connection with the current location to provide a resultant set of policies;
- enforcing the resultant set of policies on one or more applications that are executable by the computing device;
- determining whether the device's current location has changed and if so, automatically determining a new current location using received location information;
- responsive to determining the new current location, locally re-evaluating, with the computing device, the collection of policies to provide a new resultant set of policies for the new current location; and
- enforcing the new resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 74 and 76-78 depend from claim 73 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 73 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 79 has been amended, and as amended recites a computing device comprising [added language appears in the bold italics]:

- one or more processors;
- memory operably associated with the one or more processors;
- one or more applications loadable in the memory and executable on the one or more processors; and
- the one or more processors being configured to:
  - collect policies from multiple different policy sources to provide a collection of policies, the policies being expressed in terms of context dependencies associated with multiple different device contexts;
  - receive context information from externally of the device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
  - automatically determine a current context from the context information, *wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:*
    - *using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node*;
  - locally evaluate the collection of policies in connection with the current context to provide a resultant set of policies; and
  - enforce the resultant set of policies on the one or more applications.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same

argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Claim 79 has been amended. In light of the current amendments, and for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 80 and **81** depend from claim 79 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 79 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another

Claim 82 has been amended, and as amended recites a method of operating a computing device comprising [added language appears in the bold italics]:

- collecting policies from multiple different policy sources to provide a collection of policies, the policies being expressed in terms of context dependencies associated with multiple different device contexts;
- receiving context information from externally of a computing device, the context information pertaining to a current device context;
- automatically determining a current context from the context information, *wherein said act of automatically determining comprises:*
  - *using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures on the device, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device location, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node;*

- locally evaluating the collection of policies in connection with the current context to provide a resultant set of policies; and

- enforcing the resultant set of policies on the device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regard to claim 1. Claim 82 has been amended. In light of the current amendments, and for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains that the Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 83-87 depend from claim 82 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 82, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 88 recites a method of providing policies for enforcement on computing devices comprising [emphasis added]:

- providing a representation of location using *multiple* hierarchical tree structures each of which comprising multiple nodes, *each node representing a location that can be either a physical location or a logical location*, the tree structures comprising at least one link between them that can serve as a basis for a traversal operation that traverses the multiple tree structures to derive a computing device location; and
- expressing multiple policies as a function of the representation of location.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regards to claim 1. Applicant is confused as to how that argument is applicable to this claim. For instance, claim 1 does not recite *"using*

multiple hierarchical tree structures each of which comprising multiple nodes, each node representing a location that can be either a physical location or a logical location," as recited in this claim. Furthermore, the Office does not even suggest that this element is disclosed or suggested by either Olarig or Lampert. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Additionally, Lampert does not teach or in any way mention the use of multiple hierarchical tree structures. As discussed above, Lampert discloses the use of *one* kd-tree structure.

In view of the above discussion, the Office has made an improper rejection and has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least this reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claim 89 depends from claim 88 and is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. This claim is also allowable for its own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 88 are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 90 recites a method of providing policies for enforcement on computing devices comprising [emphasis added]:

- expressing multiple policies as a function of an abstract representation of location that uses *multiple* hierarchical tree structures each of which comprising multiple nodes, *each node representing a location that can be either a physical location or a logical location,* the tree structures comprising at least one link between them that can serve as a basis for a traversal operation that traverses the multiple tree structures to derive a computing device location; and

- making the multiple policies available to computing devices.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regards to claim 1. Applicant is confused as to how that argument is applicable to this claim. For instance, claim 1 does not recite *"using multiple hierarchical tree structures each of which comprising multiple nodes, each node representing a location that can be either a physical location or a logical location,"* as recited in this claim. Furthermore, the Office does not even suggest that this element is disclosed or suggested by either Olarig or Lampert. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Additionally, Lampert does not teach or in any way mention the use of multiple hierarchical tree structures. As discussed above, Lampert discloses the use of *one* kd-tree structure.

In view of the above discussion, the Office has made an improper rejection and has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least this reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claim 91 has been amended, and as amended recites a computer architecture *embodied on a computer readable medium* comprising [added language appears in the bold italics above, emphasis added below]:

- a context service that provides context information or context change events that pertain to the context of a computing device;
- wherein said context service determines context using one or more hierarchical traversable tree structures, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, the context service being configured to determine context by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures,

wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node;* and

- a policy engine communicatively linked with the context service and configured to:
  - o receive context information or context change events from the context service;
  - o evaluate a collection of policies to provide a resultant set of policies responsive to the context information or context change events; and
  - o enforce the resultant set of policies on a computing device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regards to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains its arguments as set forth above in regards to claim 1.

In view of the above discussion, the Office has made an improper rejection and has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 92-96 depend from claim 91 and are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 91, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another.

Claim 97 has been amended, and as amended recites a computer system comprising [added language appears in the bold italics, emphasis added below]:

- *a computer-readable medium;*
- a context service *embodied on the computer-readable medium and* that provides context information or context change events that pertain to the context of a computing device;
- wherein said context service determines context using one or more

hierarchical traversable tree structures, the tree structures comprising individual nodes each of which being associated with a device context, the context service being configured to determine context by traversing at least one node on at least one of the tree structures, wherein individual nodes comprise an entity identification (EID) that is unique to the node, *EIDs serving as a basis by which attributes can be assigned to goods or services associated with an individual node;* and

- a policy engine communicatively linked with the context service, but remote from the computing device, and configured to:
  - o receive context information or context change events from the context service;
  - o evaluate a collection of policies to provide a resultant set of policies responsive to the context information or context change events; and
  - o provide the resultant set of policies to the computing device.

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office relies on the same argument that it made in regards to claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office and maintains its arguments as set forth above in regards to claim 1.
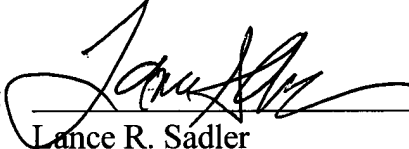
In view of the above discussion, the Office has made an improper rejection and has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Conclusion

All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office issues a final rejection responsive to this response, Applicant will appeal. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of discussing an appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 9/25/06   By:

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